

INTIMATIONS EYE-SIGHT.

NOTICE

M. N. LAZARUS

MAY BE CONSULTED FOR

SPECTACLES

ONLY FOR A FEW DAYS MORE

AT

FLETCHER & Co's PHARMACY

(Opposite the HONGKONG HOTEL).

Hongkong, 21st March, 1899. [738]

A. S. WATSON & CO.,
LIMITED.

IMPORTERS OF HIGH-CLASS

SHERRIES.

B—SUPERIOR PALE DRY,

Cherry wine, Green Seal

Capsule.....\$10.80

C—MANZANILLA PALE

NATURAL SHERRY,

White Capsule.....12.00

CC—SUPERIOR OLD DRY,

PALE NATU AL

SHERRY, Red Seal

Capsule.....12.00

D—VERY SUPERIOR OLD

PALE DRY, choice old

wine, White Seal Capsule. 14.40

E—EXTRA SUPERIOR OLD

PALE DRY, very finest

quality. Black Seal Capsule (Old Bottled).....20.00

B, C, and CC are excellent dinner

Wines and suitable for invalids and

delicate stomachs. D and E are after-

dinner Wines of a very superior vint-

age. All are true Xeres Wines.

Sample bottles and smaller quanti-

ties will be supplied at proportionate

wholesale rates.

We only guarantee our Wines and

Spirits to be genuine when bought

direct from us in the Colony or from

our authorised Agents at the Coast

Ports.

A. S. WATSON & Co., LIMITED.

WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

[28]

On the 15th MARCH, 1899, at Trinity Cathedral,

Shanghai, by the Rev. H. C. Hudson, B.A., Assistant

Minister of the Imperial Chinese Consulate, the

wedding of Miss Anna Macgregor, of Adelaide,

South Australia.

DEATH.

At Tianjin, 12th March, 1899, R. E. MORTON,

aged 5 years.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, March 25th, 1899.

To those who hold the idea that the province

of Yunnan offers a promising field for

British trade and enterprise the first report

by Mr. J. W. Jamieson, Acting British

Consul at Suifu, will not prove encouraging.

The report is on the "Prospects of

development of commercial intercourse

with South-western Yunnan and a short

account of the trade of Suifu," and is

characterized by Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD

as a very interesting and valuable report.

In this judgment we fully concur. Mr.

Jamieson has evidently taken great pains

to glean all possible information as to the

productions, the trade, the climate, and the

people of Yunnan, and though many of the

facts were known before, through the obser-

vations of Mr. COLONEL BAKER, Mr.

COLONEL BAKER, and other travellers, yet it

adds many important items to the stock of

information, and helps us to better appreciate

the prospects of opening up a paying trade

with this remote country. Mr. Jamieson

is well aware that his report must tend to

depress the hopes, for he comments on

the fact that Yunnan is, judging from public

utterances and articles in the Press, still

regarded as a very important factor in the

commercial development of China, and goes

on to characterize as impossible the many

schemes propounded for the construction of

railways whereby to open up the country,

and finds it difficult to understand on what

grounds such sanguine hopes of Yunnan's

future prosperity are based, when it is seen

that little support has been given to such

"make the few articles of clothing neces-

sary in this equable climate, they are

"content."

Referring to the practicability of build-

ing railways, Mr. Jamieson quotes and

endorses the remarks made by Mr. BAKER

on the same subject some years ago, when

he said:—"I do not mean that it would be

"absolutely impossible to construct a rail-

"way. A high authority has informed me

"that if shareholders still provide the

"money they will always find an engineer

"to spend it." By piercing half-a-dozen

"Mont Canis tunnels and erecting a few

"narrow-gauge railways from Suifu to the

"vicinity of Suifu, the same holds good

"for any projected railway in southern and

"western Yunnan into Szechuen. Small

"stretches of line could always, for a cer-

"tain length, be run up the river valleys,

"and they would only lead to unimportant

"towns, with little or no trade either on

"route or between the termini." It is all

"very well to make Indian railways up to

"the Yunnan frontier, but it will take

"many years to develop any paying trade

"in that province itself, while the cost

"of carrying railways through the almost

"impassable ranges of mountains there

"would be absolutely prohibitive. The roads

"are exceedingly bad, and these Mr.

"JAMIESON thinks may be improved with

"great advantage to the trade, such as it is.

"The population, however, is thin and with

"the exception of some of the aboriginal

"tribes—who are reputed to possess some

"hoarded wealth—the people are poor and

"with few wants. There is a great demand

"for quinine owing to the prevalence of

"malarial fevers, and for cheap articles of

"every day household use there is also a

"fair market. But the trade is not best of

"padding description, and the traders will

"make long journeys of two or three weeks'

"duration to realize a few dollars. Even

"Suifu, which was popularly used to be

"quite a busy mart, is a delusion in this

"sense. He says:—"When contrasted with

"the miserable hamlets met with by travel-

"lers in these parts the first impression

"created by Suifu is that of a bustling

"centre of trade. This effect is due to the

"fact that all the business of the place is

"concentrated in a small section of one street,

"which is at all hours of the day and night

"thronged with country-people and 'coolies'

"connected with the tea and cotton com-

"merce. When, however, one goes more

"closely into the matter this illusion van-

"ishes. Suifu possesses no shops of any

"kind, not even a shop. What little trade

"is done is carried on in small stalls on the

"street leading to the south gate and on

"the parade ground in front of the Custom

"House, and the only establishments of

"any importance are the houses where tea

"is sorted and packed and the dye-houses

"which dye house-made cloth."

The staple industry of the town is the

preparation and packing of the celebrated

Fuji tea, in which some twenty-five firms

are engaged. Concerning this industry Mr.

JAMIESON has gathered a good deal of

interesting information, which shows that

its importance has been overestimated

and that the quality of the product is

not equal to its reputation. No authentic

record is extant of the date when this

industry was first started, but mention

is made of it in the records of the Fung

Jin-yang (A.D. 600-900). There are various

quantities of the tea, and great quantities of

it are cultivated on the right bank of

the Mekong by the Shan of Menghai.

The merchants value the tea trade of

Suifu at from Tls. 130,000 to Tls. 140,000

per annum, and the total duty

collected on it last year, as supplied by the

Sub-Prefect to Mr. JAMIESON for the three

places Suifu, Menghai, and Jiyang, was

Tls. 10,000. Statistics for the hills are not

available, but Mr. JAMIESON thinks a reason-

able estimate for the value of the whole

trade would be \$35,000. The second great

industry of Suifu is the spinning of yarn

and weaving of cloth out of cotton imported

from the Burmese Shan States and from the

French Laos. The value of the trade in

cotton and its products is estimated at from

Tls. 70,000 to Tls. 80,000 per annum. The

value of foreign cotton and woollen goods

imported last year was Tls. 5,000, and these

came from Suifu. The duty on these goods

figuring in the Customs returns for 1897 was

Tls. 31,378. Of these 77 per cent. were

of the province, with as much amusement,

for instance, as that with which we now

regard the earlier reports on the capabilities

of Hongkong as an emporium of trade.

The Directors of the Shanghai Waterworks

Co., Limited, propose to declare a dividend of

25 per cent. on the 31st March.

Steps are being taken at Shanghai for the

formation of a German Association on the lines

of the China Association.

A return made at Hickey, Over a Quarter-

of-Century v. The Rest, will take place on

Tuesday, 28th instant, at 4.45 p.m. The first

match ended in a tie.

At the general half-yearly meeting of the

shareholders of the Yokohama Specie Bank a

dividend at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum

was declared.

H.M.S. Juno arrived at Shanghai on the 18th

March from Amoy. It is reported that she

is to take Sir Claude MacDonald to

Nanking for the opening of the port.

Dr. Gaudin's Lloyd denies that the Berlin

syndicate has been bound to carry out its

engagements with regard to the proposed

Peking-Hankow railway.

Mr. Granville Sharp will give an address on

Tuesday afternoon at 4.15, on the subject of

the Old Volume Society, on the occasion of

the presentation of the "Sign of the Cross" to

the Old Volume Society.

Messrs. Lunke and Rege inform us that

Messrs. H. H. & Co. of Amoy, agents for

the sale of the "Sign of the Cross" to the

Old Volume Society, are being enforced on

resale including Hongkong.

A Peking telegram of the 20th instant states

according to a Tokyo press dispatch, that the

present demand of Italy has been made at the

negotiation of Germany, which has the effect

of forcing the loss of Samsu Bay at the same

time.

Yesterday the Hon. E. H. May, Dr. J. M.

Atkinson, and the Hon. R. D. Ormsby visited

the Kowloon extension for the purpose of

seeing the site for the proposed extension of

the railway and other officials who will be engaged

in the administration of the new territory.

At the Magistrate's today a private in the

Royal Artillery named William Grayley was

charged with assaulting Mr. Mackinnon in

Praya East last week. Mr. Mackinnon's eye

was so seriously injured that it had to be taken

out.

In consequence of the promotion of Mr. G.

W. Duggan to the post of Secretary of the

Sanitary Board, the designation of Paymaster

of Police has been changed to Fiscal Clerk and

Accountant, to which post Mr. George Ng Fat

Shang has been appointed.

The Peking and Tientsin Times says that

Messrs. William Forbes & Co. have secured

the contract for 6,762 tons of rails and fasten-

ings to be delivered at Tientsin this autumn.

The above contract was placed with

a similar contract for the delivery of 10,000

tons of rails and fastenings at Tientsin in

the autumn.

The Vivienne Dugmar Company gave an

excellent entertainment at the Theatre Royal

on Thursday evening. A number of the

artists of the company were present, and the

entertainment was thoroughly well

appreciated. Miss Dugmar's performance

has been the talk of the town during the

week. Last night, however, she was

somewhat less successful, and Miss

Dugmar gave her sensational first dance.

The last notice in connection with War-

ren's Circus is announced for this afternoon.

Last night the programme was changed con-

siderably, some of the acts being dropped

and others being added. Among the new items

are:—"The Three Merry Clowns in a Hat,"

"The Altos on a Donkey," "The Circus

Duchess of Hongkong," "The Circus

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REUTERS' TELEGRAMS.

SUPPLIED TO THE "DAILY PRESS."

LONDON, 24th March.

GREAT BRITAIN AND FRANCE

IN AFRICA.

An Anglo-French Agreement forming an

appendix to the Nile Convention has been

signed in London. Great Britain retains

the Bahir el-Ghazal and Darfur, and France

the North of Lake Chad. The signatories mutually

concede equality of commercial treatment in

the region between the Nile and Lake Chad

between the fifth and fifteenth parallels. France

thus obtains access to the Nile.

The British Romanesque of Love and War

Through Italy. London: The

